



The Wonthaggi Woody



www.wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au

Wonthaggi Woodcrafters
P. O. Box 477 Wonthaggi 3995
Jean Melzer Centre
239 White Road
Wonthaggi 3995

ISSUE

182

May
2022

COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:

Neil Lenne - 5678 5736

VICE PRESIDENT:

Michael Bladen - 0428 270 850

SECRETARY:

Lex Van Saane - 0417 010 941

TREASURER:

Frank Kisvarda - 5674 6644

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Hartley Tobin - 5997 6328

Alan Hurst - 0427 393 234

Syd Gordon - 0434 614 573

Anne Ormshaw - 0400 681 242

John Harmer - 0429 143 477

Club Email

wonthaggiwoodcrafters@gmail.com

Website

www.wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au

Facebook

www.facebook.com/wonthaggiwoodcraftersinc

Secretary

woodiessec@gmail.com

Newsletter

woodiesnews@gmail.com

DIARY 2021

June 6th - Committee Meeting

June 13th - General Meeting

July 4th - Committee Meeting

July 11th - General Meeting

July 24th - Bunnings BBQ

Aug 1st - Committee Meeting

Aug 8th - AGM and General Meeting

WOODIES WORKSHOP SESSIONS

WOODTURNING: Regular Sessions

Monday 9 am to 12 noon - Hartley Tobin: 5997 6328
Neil Lenne: 5678 5736

Monday 1 pm to 4 pm - John DiStefano: 0481 480 812
Monday 5 pm to 8 pm - Michael Bladen: 0428 270 850
Wednesday 1 pm to 4 pm - Lionel Wood: 0409 695 950
Friday 9 am to 12 noon - Hartley Tobin: 5997 6328
Neil Lenne: 5678 5736

SEGMENTED TURNING: Regular Sessions

Friday 9 am to 12 noon - Neil Lenne: 5678 5736

WOODTURNING: On-demand Sessions

Friday 1 pm to 4 pm - Hartley Tobin: 5997 6328

TOY GROUP: Regular Sessions

Tuesday 9 am to 4 pm - Peter Myers: 0413 122 103

PYROGRAPHY: Regular Sessions

Friday 1 pm to 4 pm - Michael Bladen: 0428 270 850

SCROLL SAWING: Regular Sessions

Wednesday 9 am to 12 noon - Lionel Wood: 0490 695 950

BANDSAW BOX MAKING: On-demand Sessions

Monday 1 pm to 4 pm - Marion Kerry: 0409 010 843

JOINERY & SMALL FURNITURE MAKING: Regular Sessions

Thursday 9 am to 12 noon - Syd Gordon: 0434 614 573

CARVING: Regular Sessions

Friday 9 am to 12 noon - Harry Smith: 5674 8078
Lionel Wood: 0490 695 950

As a courtesy to workshop supervisors and other participants please advise in advance if you are unable to attend your regular session.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi all and welcome everyone to the May newsletter.

I'm afraid I have to start this newsletter with some sad news, we lost George Hill last week. He was one of the founding members of the club and our very first Life Member. Our condolences to his family. RIP George. We had a Bunnings BBQ on the 7/5 and it

was a great result for a freezing cold, wet day. A big thank you to the members that assisted on the day. We are looking for someone to co-ordinate the next BBQ on the 24th July. It's a job that should be shared and not just left to the Committee. You will be shown the ropes and given as much help as you need. The Club will also be looking for a new Secretary for next year. If you would like to be more involved in your club, we would like you to come forward and have a chat. You will be assisted along the way, you won't be left on your own to figure it all out, so please give it some thought.

There was a good turn out at the May General Meeting and it was good to see everyone there. At the next meeting we will have a guest speaker, **cont. P 2.**

President's Report cont: He is one of our own members and will speak about his travels. It should be extremely interesting. The sale of Tony Stevens' equipment has been emailed to everyone. The two Saturdays that are available for either pick up or viewing are the 28/5 & the 4/6 from 10 to 1pm. There are no other times available. If you are interested in purchasing any of the items, contact Frank Kisvarda for larger machines or Neil Bateman for smaller equipment.

If you would like to be trained on any of the machines or equipment we have at the club or just the machines you would like to use, contact Syd Gordon to arrange a suitable day and time.

I would like to remind everyone that if you feel unwell please do not come to the club, so we can keep everyone safe and well as Covid is still with us.

The club has now restocked EEE and Glow polishes and sandpaper for you to purchase at a cheaper rate than at retail suppliers. My boss has called out to me and said the kettle is on, so on that note, I will sign off. Cheers, *Neil*.

SAVINGS ON EXPENDABLES

The club has expendable items purchased in bulk (sandpaper, super glue, Shellawax, EEE, etc.) for sale at Club cost price. We also have earmuffs, safety glasses and Covid-safe masks if you've forgotten to bring one. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, see your session supervisor for prices and availability.

WHAT TOOL IS THIS?

Last month's mystery tool - A brace and bit drill to easily get right into tight corners

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY TOOL



CURRENT NEWS

Easter Shop - The Easter shop went pretty well with about \$4200 taken. The Club has benefitted to the tune of about \$650 after payments to members and associated costs.

Bunnings BBQs - A roster sheet is on the noticeboard for the July 24th Bunnings BBQ. We also need a Supervisor for this event. Neil Lenne did the last one which cleared about \$550, even in the inclement weather. Please help our Club by putting your name down to help out.

Training/Accreditation on major machinery use is being arranged by Syd. There is a signup sheet on the notice board. The sheet is for you to indicate your preference for training on machines that you need to use. Syd will then contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time. Thursday mornings are generally best for Syd, or speak to your session Supervisor.

Timber available at the Woodies - There is always timber available at the Club for turning, furniture, carving - in fact all aspects of the Club's activities. Speak to your session supervisor for advice.

Tony Stephen's machines and tools - There are still a lot of Tony Stephen's tools and equipment available. Small items from Neil Bateman at any time by arrangement. Larger machines viewing and pickup times at Leongatha from 10am to 1pm on Saturdays 28th May and 4th June or call Frank Kisvarda.

Request for speakers at General Meetings - In the past we have attempted to have a guest speaker at most of our general meetings. This fell by the wayside over the past two years during Covid. We want to begin this aspect of meetings on a consistent basis again. If you have any ideas, a contact who would speak or feel your could do so yourself, please contact Lex VanSaane.

New printer/copier - We now have a new printer/copier as the previous one failed. Please do not use the machine if you are unsure of it's operation. Speak to a Committee member or session Supervisor.

MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY 2022



A very **happy birthday** to the following Members –
Peter Clingin, David Cretney,
Denis Marsh, Allan Morcom,
Chris O'Brien, Alan Schache,
Philip Wardle.

There are still some birthdays not on our records. If we've missed you, please let Alan Hurst know or email woodiesnews@gmail.com

MEMBER PROFILE

Amanda Robbins



I lived at Lindenow as a child before moving to Melbourne in my Primary School days. Luckily, I spent most holidays back in East Gippsland with relatives on farms, and loved it. Dad & mum operated a small business manufacturing timber furniture, using local timber. This left both my brother & I with a preference for

lovely timber works. Mum & dad also encouraged us to always try things, especially the ones you were nervous about – which occasionally went pear-shaped, another few bruises!

I've had a varied work life including tutoring, teaching, farm work, book keeping, working in community organisations and businesses. I was given a position teaching at Wonthaggi Primary School after taking a year off from teaching to travel and work in South & Western Australia with my partner. It was a great adventure. After settling in Wonthaggi we started a business, lots of timber as it turned out. I continued part-time teaching then went back to study in the arts field. It was great to be in a rural area with beaches and lots of open space.

Reading, gardening, art, getting out and about with friends all keep me occupied and I've now added woodworking! I love learning new skills and joined the Woodies to make a box. I took plywood to make my first box, possibly not considered 'real' wood, but it worked out. Now I've lovely old redwood boards to play with, still learning boxes and just started turning. It's great to be a part of the Woodies, the sharing of knowledge and encouragement, particularly around the initial time on BIG machines, makes it a much more enjoyable craft to learn.

My challenges list to date is to make a 5-sided box and lid, a small Chinese style 3 box unit, maybe on small legs - possibly with doors that slide across to open, and to learn wood turning/carving.

WOODIES AT WORK

You may be wondering what's happening in the Thursday Joinery group, so here's an outline of changes that have occurred or are in progress. But first let me fill you in on what we are doing. We now have nine members in our group with a wide range of skills and interests.

We are extending the focus of the group to include not only furniture making but also box making and indeed anything that requires the use of traditional joinery techniques. These techniques include various methods of joining timber, eg. mortice and tenon joints, splined mitre joints, box joints, dovetail joints, draw bore joints and a range of versions of those same joints.

Also we are starting to place some more emphasis on the use of hand tools to create our joinery. This doesn't mean we are abandoning the use of power tools. In fact, quite the opposite, as there is a need to gain the skills to use both, and to understand when you should use power tools and when to use hand tools.

As far as changes in the workshop are concerned the pictures show it all. The photo below shows a new insert for the Hafco table saw. This insert has just been made and is called a "zero clearance" insert. It is designed to have no clearance between the blade and the insert, which



eliminates the problem of very thin strips being thrown down into the extractor system. Note the absence of the riving knife. If you want to know more about this, feel free to ask me. I am more than happy to show you.

The photos on the next page show some new equipment we have obtained.

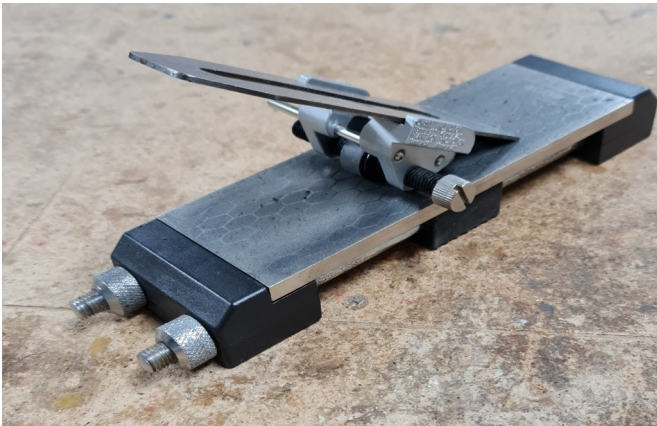
1. Traditional 'hold-down'. These devices are used by placing the shaft into a 'dog-hole' in the bench with the foot on the work, you then belt the daylight out of it with a mallet to lock it down.
2. Chisel and plane blade sharpening jig on a diamond stone. It allows for sharpening with repeatable accuracy.
3. This is a work-in-progress. It is one of two 'Moxon' vices that I am building. They are 600mm long and are one of the most versatile vices for woodworking. They will be fitted to the ends of the two large work benches in the joinery workshop. Keep an eye out for them as I hope to have them finished soon. **Cont. Page 4**

**Did whoever said,
"Out of sight, out of mind"
Ever see a spider disappear
in their bedroom?**

WOODIES AT WORK cont.

If you want more info on the joinery group or want to learn how this new equipment works do not hesitate to ask.

Sydney Gordon.



TIPS AND TRICKS



Above: I keep sandpaper sheets neatly organized in an inexpensive accordion-style file folder.

Below: Baby wipes - handy to have at hand and use them for everything. Wipe off extra wood glue, clean up paint drips and other spills, clean things of dust and grease. And not costly.



SOME 'MUST SEE' COMEDY MAGIC

Men in Coats –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf5hCob7XGM>

Jerome Murat -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkCmmuiDFcg>

Roy Gardner and James -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3mfWdKgs>



SHOW AND TELL

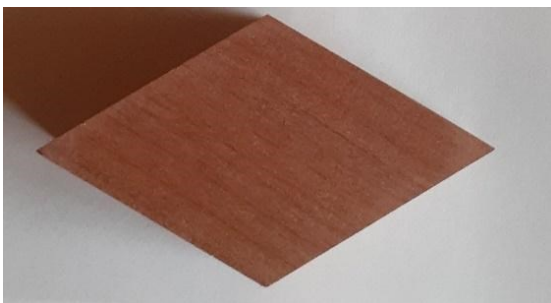
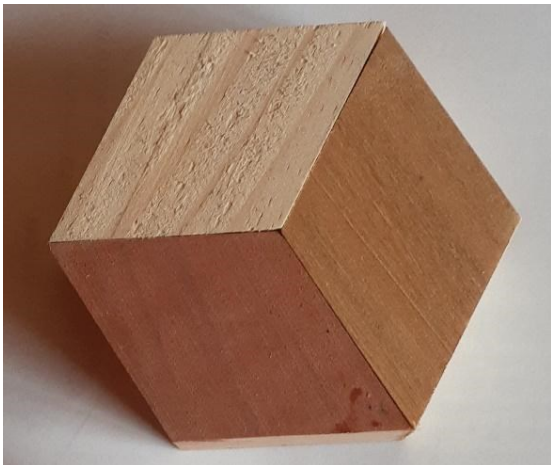


Above: This 3 dimensional cutting board with a cubic design has been made by John DiStefano from Spotted Gum, Jarrah and Radiata Pine. If any Woodies wish to have a go at making their own, join John at Monday afternoon wood turning sessions, beginning at 1pm.

Here's John's brief explanation of how it is done -

A requirement for making such a board is good table saw technique resulting in accurate and repeatable cuts of small parallelograms. To that end I will show members the table saw jig I have built to do this easily, every time.

The method requires that we create a hexagon using three different coloured timbers.



If you look closely at the hexagon above, you can see that it is made from three parallelograms. If we learn to cut the parallelograms accurately the remainder of

SHOW AND TELL *cont.*

the process to make the board is just some gluing and clamping, followed by some sanding.

There is some simple geometry to understand too, but that is not too difficult. We were able to understand that geometry many decades ago in form 1 or 2 math classes. It's pretty basic stuff. But once we have built the jig for cutting the parallelograms, we can discard the geometry.

Instructions will take about 1 hour with the rest of the session used to practice accurate cutting and gluing the three parallelograms into a hexagon and then gluing the hexagons to create the fancy 3D looking board.

Join me during the month of **June** and learn to make something new. You may wish to come for one session only to learn the basics, or come for multiple sessions to create the whole board, with support and supervision.

John Di Stefano Phone: 0482 173 799



The footstool **above** is a work in progress by Neil Lenne. It is currently awaiting its cover and padding to be completed.

Below is the finished Lazy Susan made by Hartley Tobin from Lone Pine to be donated to the Vietnam Vets Museum on Phillip Island.



SHOW AND TELL cont.



The items at left and below have been made by Gulio Marcolongo, one of earliest members of the Wonthaggi Woodies and now a valued Honorary Member of the Club .



Guilio resides in Wonthaggi. Now retired, he is one of Australia's best known woodturners, and is well known as a demonstrator at symposiums, wood working shows and woodturning events in Australia, New Zealand and throughout the USA.

Pictured at left are several examples of his amazing creative work.

Top - The Octo-box made from Huon Pine.

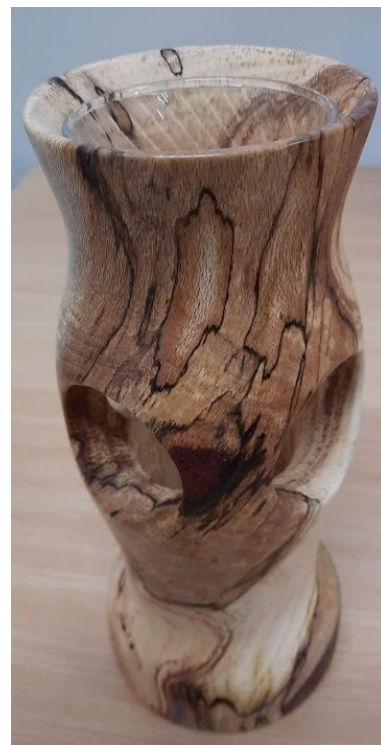
Middle - Redgum turned on three centres and mounted on a Mallee root which was bleached.

Bottom - This Chinese or Japanese influenced piece is unusual but attractive and practical.



The lovely box **above** was made by Lex VanSaane from Cedar. It is beautifully finger-jointed with book matched sides and finished with Kunos Oil.

Below are two vases made by Alan Hurst. They both have glass inserts and feature open viewing side panels. The vase at left is made from spalted Birch and at right from Elm.



SHOW & TELL *cont.*

Many years ago I bought some kits for making walking sticks. Then a few years ago we had to remove a decent size oak tree in our front yard. So when I cut it down I left a long clean trunk, and quartered it vertically with a chainsaw. The resulting lengths have been stored in my workshop for quite a while, and – as I discovered – have spalted (i.e. had a fungus grow through the wood making striking patterns).

Over the last few months I decided the time had come to make some walking sticks.

My first attempt is a slender stick made in 3 sections with brass joiners, and a brass handle. It came out quite well, but I found that ensuring the separate sections are aligned and have an even taper is not so easy.

For my second attempt I opted for a single vertical stick, and a turned handle. (see picture). I used the club's extending lathe, and a "steady" borrowed from Hartley. (Thanks Hartley!)

The spalting makes for a very pretty walking stick. I deliberately kept it somewhat chunky (spalting weakens wood) however it's not excessively heavy and feels quite sturdy.

I'm quite proud of the outcome, and pleased at my attempts turning a long piece of wood. All very educational!

Colin Goodwin



ALL ABOUT BURLS

A burl is a wart-like, deformed growth on the trunk or root and sometimes even the branches of a tree, caused by (1) an injury to, or (2) an infection in the tree just under the bark, or (3) the existence of an unformed bud which has all the genetic material necessary to grow a full branch, or even a whole tree, but which for some reason did not grow properly. In any case, the result is that the tree cells divide and grow excessively and unevenly in a process somewhat analogous to cancer cells in a mammal. Burls are sometimes called tumours on wood, although I'm not aware of them ever being fatal. Trees with burls generally continue to grow otherwise normally.

Continued growth follows the contour of the original deformity, producing all manner of twists, swirls and knots in the wood fibre. Usually, this results in wood that has a spectacular pattern that can be used to great effect in woodworking, and sometimes it is also accompanied by the creation in the burl of dormant buds which create "eyes" that make the burl even more spectacular when worked.

Burl wood is usually darker than the rest of the tree and in some cases (Paela comes to mind) may be a significantly different colour altogether. Because of the diverse grain direction, burl wood cannot be relied on for strength, but that's of little consequence since burls are prized for beauty, not strength.

Burl wood can be difficult to dry without cracking. Sometimes there are bark inclusions in burls, and sometimes gum pockets, either of which can cause surface defects when the burl is worked. In some species of wood, gum pockets are common in any burl found on the tree.

Burls come in all sizes and shapes from golf-ball and smaller to thousands of kilos of massive growth on the side of a large tree or in the root system. Burls as large as an SUV and weighing 4,000 kilos have been reported, as have trees with hundreds of small burls. On really large trees, such as the Redwood, burls commonly exist that are large enough to be used to create veneer and even smaller burls are sometimes sliced into veneer for use in craft items such as jewellery boxes. Burl veneer frequently does not



BURLS cont.

stay flat after cutting and has to be moistened and clamped flat before and/or during application. "Cat's Paw" and "Cluster Burl" are a couple of commonly identified types of burl figure. Cat's paw is frequently found in cherry and cluster burls are found in a number of species. Most often, burls have no sub-designation and occur in a large number of species. Common burl species include Eucalypts, Oak, Ash, Maple, Elm and Walnut. Some exotics with very popular burls are Mappa (Poplar burl), Thuya and Imbuya, and there are MANY more.



Burls can take on various shapes. The tree **above** has multiple group burls on the trunk as well as root burls around the base. It is likely this tree suffered from some severe infection during its life. **Below** is an example of the wonderful patterns that exist in burls, which is why they are so highly prized by woodworkers.



Burls can take on all shapes, forms and sizes. To look at the one **above** from a distance, one may think it is an animal (perhaps a koala) clinging to the side of the tree.

Below is an example of what can be done with a burl if you have the inclination and the skill. Burls are often turned, but can also be carved to form highly featured and beautiful works of art.



SOME YOUTUBE WOODWORKING VIDEOS WORTH VIEWING

Creative Woodworking Crafts Design.

They make it look so easy.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF_VTBsr4po

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kyu16lY6nQA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8o8iAcxiUY>

Imagine what they could do with better quality tools and timber and more time to complete their projects.

Send any relevant articles, photos of interest, items to buy or sell, woodworking tips, tricks and jigs, or just any general suggestions for the Newsletter to -

woodiesnews@gmail.com

GADGET MAN



6" Magnetic Tray Dish with Hood

I recently purchased one of these. I already have similar magnetic trays, but without the hood. When you are fiddling with small screws and drop them into the tray, sometimes they bounce out. This one brilliantly stops that and I've not lost a screw, washer or nut since.

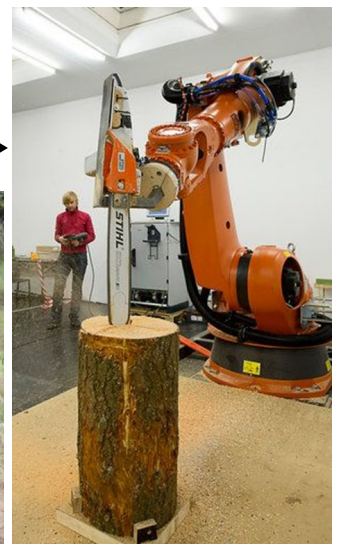
Available on eBay - (<https://www.ebay.com.au/itm/324984650450>) for \$19

SO YOU KNOW WOOD?? QUIZ

****** Answers on Page 10, but don't look yet - see how many you can get correct first ******

1. What are growth rings on trees?
2. What is spalting?
3. What is the fastest growing Aussie native tree?
4. Why doesn't Pine stain well?
5. What is a *stere* of wood?
6. What is the difference between Deciduous and Evergreen trees?
7. Are Bendee, Lightwood, Lancewood and Yarran all native Australian trees?
8. What are the holes in a Banksia pod ?
9. What is the Common name for Grevillia Robusta?
10. Is Raspberry Jam really a species of Australian timber?
11. What is the common name for an Acacia?
12. How do you identify a softwood tree
13. What is the difference between 1 tonne and 1 cubic metre of firewood?
14. Are softwood trees deciduous?
15. What is the tallest species of tree in Australia?
16. Which 3 of these trees/shrubs are not bird attracting and/or harmful to birds?
Rhododendron, Flowering gum, Lilly Pilly, Honeysuckle, Bottlebrush, Oleander?
17. Are softwoods or hardwoods most used as a construction timber?
18. What is Australia's national floral emblem?
19. How many towns or suburbs in Victoria can you think of that include a tree in their name? *Not including 'gum,' I got 24, how did you go??*

CHAINSAW CARVING FROM THIS TO THIS



JOKE OF THE MONTH



"Don't forget to fill the knotholes before staining," the cabinet maker said.

"You mean, the holes?" asked his new apprentice.

"Yes, the knotholes."

"I'm confused. Are they holes, or are they not holes?"

STAY COVID SAFE AT THE WOODIES

As you all should be aware, the restrictions around living with COVID have changed substantially recently in Victoria.

No QR codes, No proof of Vax status, No masks, except in some circumstances.

What hasn't changed is the requirement for staying COVID safe. Regular hand sanitising, cough or sneeze into a tissue/handkerchief or the crook of your arm. If you are feeling unwell and have flu-like symptoms, do not come to the club. You should get tested and if you return a positive result, stay at home and isolate for seven days. Complete two negative tests before returning to the club.

Keep in mind that our membership, for the most part, are immune compromised. This means that we must all be super diligent with following COVID safe behaviours. If you arrive at the club and appear to have flu-like symptoms you may be asked to take a temperature test, and possibly asked to leave. The Committee requests all members to respect these conditions and appreciate your co-operation.

Find the Victorian Government's advice on staying safe with COVID at - <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/hygiene-physical-distancing#stay-home-if-you-have-symptoms>

Sydney Gordon

Woodies COVID/Health Officer
On behalf of the WWC Committee

My mother told me if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. And some people wonder why I'm so quiet around them!

SO YOU KNOW WOOD?? QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. The increment of wood added during a single growth period, which is generally one year.
2. Any kind of wood colouration that is caused when fungi colonise the wood and extract nutrients from it, leaving behind dark dotted and lined patterns
3. It is generally accepted that Sydney Blue Gum is the fastest, which can grow 3 or 4 metres a year.
4. Pine has an unevenly dense grain pattern. The surface is filled with super absorbent pockets and randomly occurring figures that absorb unevenly.
5. The stere or stère (st) is a unit of volume in the original metric system equal to one cubic metre.
6. Evergreen trees have leaves throughout the year that are always green. Deciduous trees completely lose their leaves during the autumn/winter.
7. Yes, they are all species of Acacia.
8. Seed cavities
9. Silky Oak
10. Yes, it is a native WA Wattle specie
11. A Wattle.
12. Softwood is timber which is milled from conifer trees. Scientifically known as gymnosperms, conifer trees are any trees which have needles and produce cones.
13. As a guide only, 1 tonne of seasoned Redgum is approximately 2 cubic metres stacked with as few gaps as possible, or approximately 2.7 cubic metres loose.
14. No, all softwoods are evergreen.
15. Mountain Ash - Eucalyptus Regnans.
16. Rhododendron, Honeysuckle, Oleander
17. Softwoods are cheaper and easier to work with than hardwoods. As such, they make up the bulk of all wood used in the world, with about 80% of all timber being a softwood.
18. Golden Wattle (Acacia Pycnantha Benth).
19. Ashburton, Beechworth, Beech Forest, Elmhurst, Blackwood, Serpentine, Wattlebank, Wattlepark, Elmore, Huon, Jarrahmond, Wattle Glen, Willowvale, Oakleigh, Banyan, Willow Grove, Box Hill, Myrtle Creek, Myrtleford, Oakvale, Sassafras, Sheoaks, Yaloak Vale, Pine Lodge.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER SEGMENTS?

If you have any funny stories, articles, *Tips, Tricks & Jigs*, favourite gadgets, items to sell or buy, interesting websites, pictures of things you've created or work in progress, send them to - woodiesnews@gmail.com
Articles must be received no later than the 16th of the month please, to be included in the next Newsletter.

WOODIES CLASSIFIEDS

There are two categories; 'For Sale' if you have any tools or equipment you want to liquidate, and "Wanted" for those of you who are looking for preloved tools or equipment that other members may be willing to part with. There is no cost.

All you need to do to get an advert in, is write a short description (including contact details) of the item that you are selling, or wish to buy and send it to woodiesnews@gmail.com along with any photographs where appropriate.

Entries must be received by 16th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Items will appear in two consecutive newsletters unless sold or otherwise requested.

THANKS TO WONTHAGGI WOODIES' SPONSORS

***** *They support us, please support them* *****



45-61 McKenzie St,
Wonthaggi
Ph: 5671 4000



23 Inverloch Road, Wonthaggi Ph: 5672 1677



10b/286-288 Maroondah Hwy,
Chirnside Park
Ph: 9727 0611



33 -35 Murray Street, Wonthaggi
(directly opposite Woolworths Supermarket)
& 2460 Bass Hwy, Bass (in the Service Centre)



80-82 Osborne
Ave Springvale Victoria 3171
(03) 8549 9999



Address 2/5-7 Korumburra Road
Wonthaggi, Wonthaggi, VIC
3995
Phone (03) 5672 5522



U6/3b Newlands Road
Reservoir, VIC 3073
Phone: 03 9448 8300



Unit 2, 10-14 Capital Drive, Grovedale
Ph: 03 5243 0522



THE WONTHAGGI WOODY is the monthly
newsletter of Wonthaggi Woodcrafters Inc.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Alan Hurst

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